



131: A JOURNEY BEGINS

SKYBOUND

THE WALKING DEAD

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN



Chad 114

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD™

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Editor

Previously:

Negan failed to convince Magna of his innocence, but she's still suspicious of the community. Meanwhile, Rick and Carl arrive at the Hilltop, just as Marco returns with a grave tale: that he heard the dead speak...

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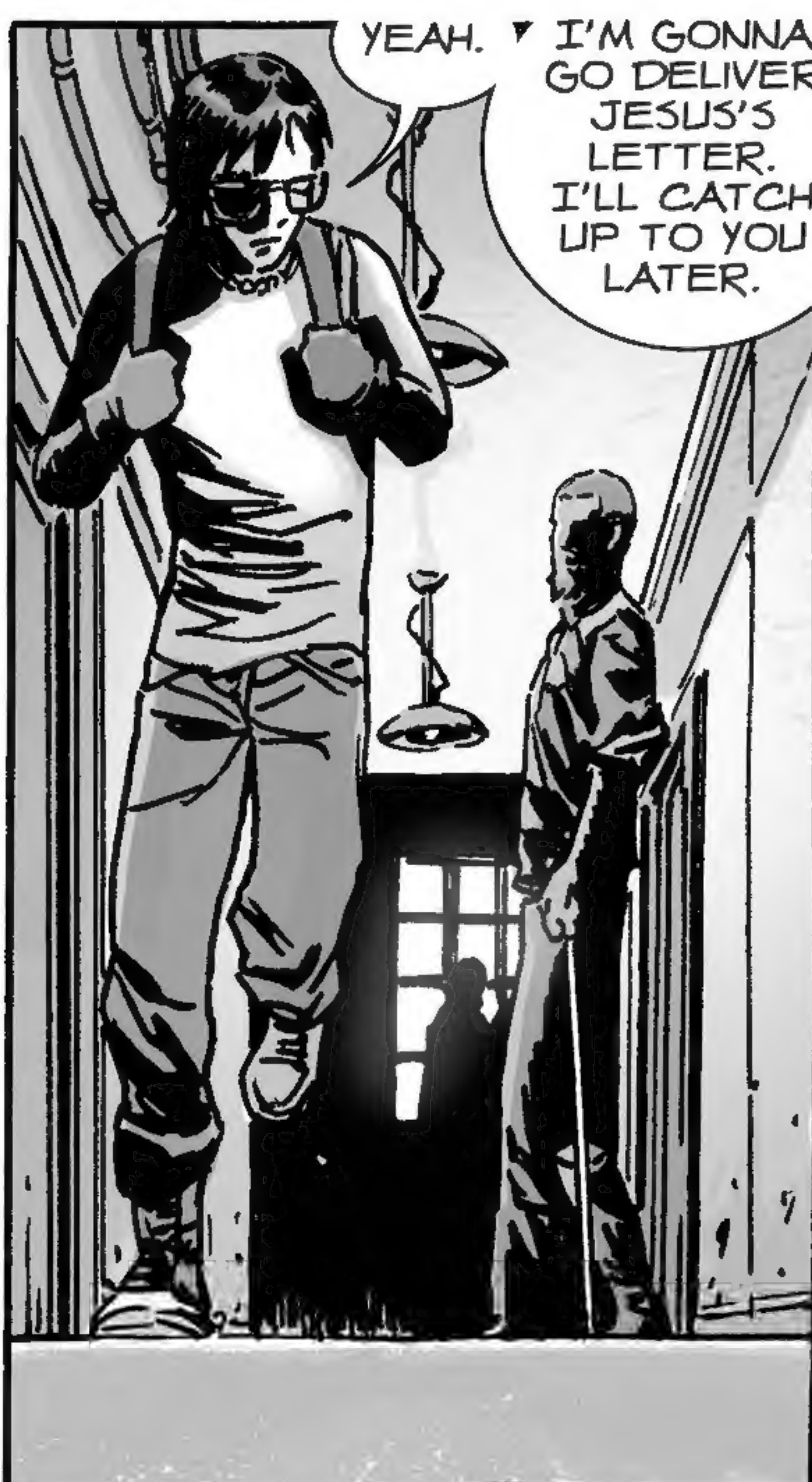
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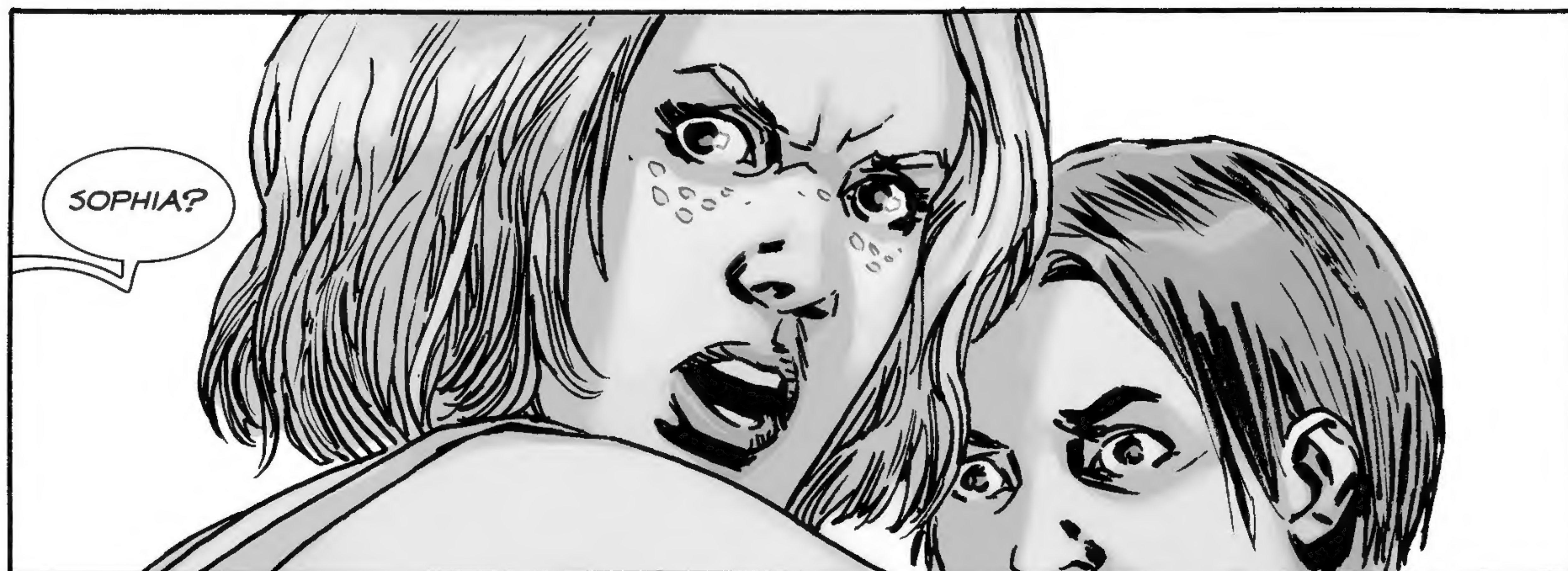
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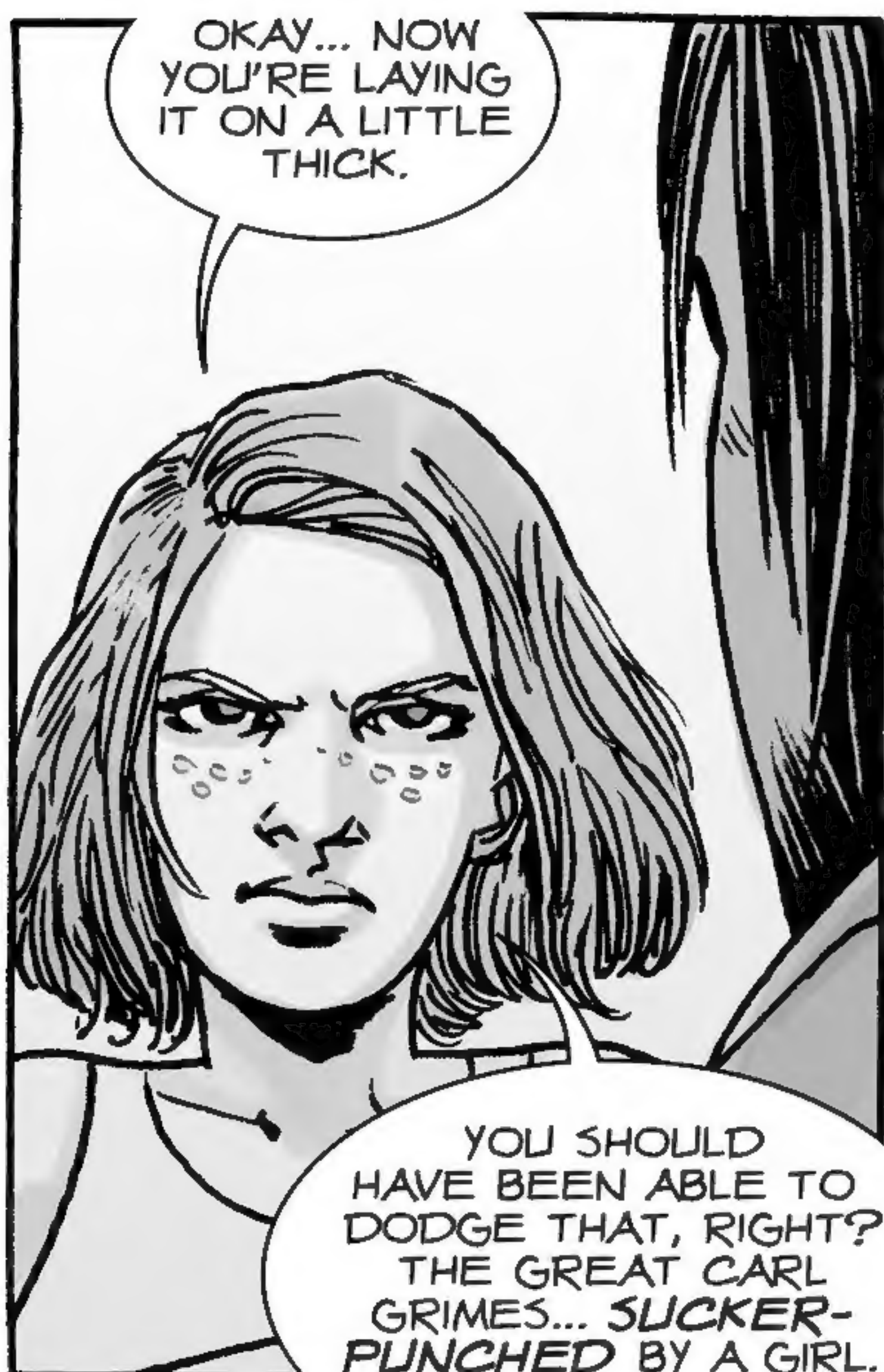
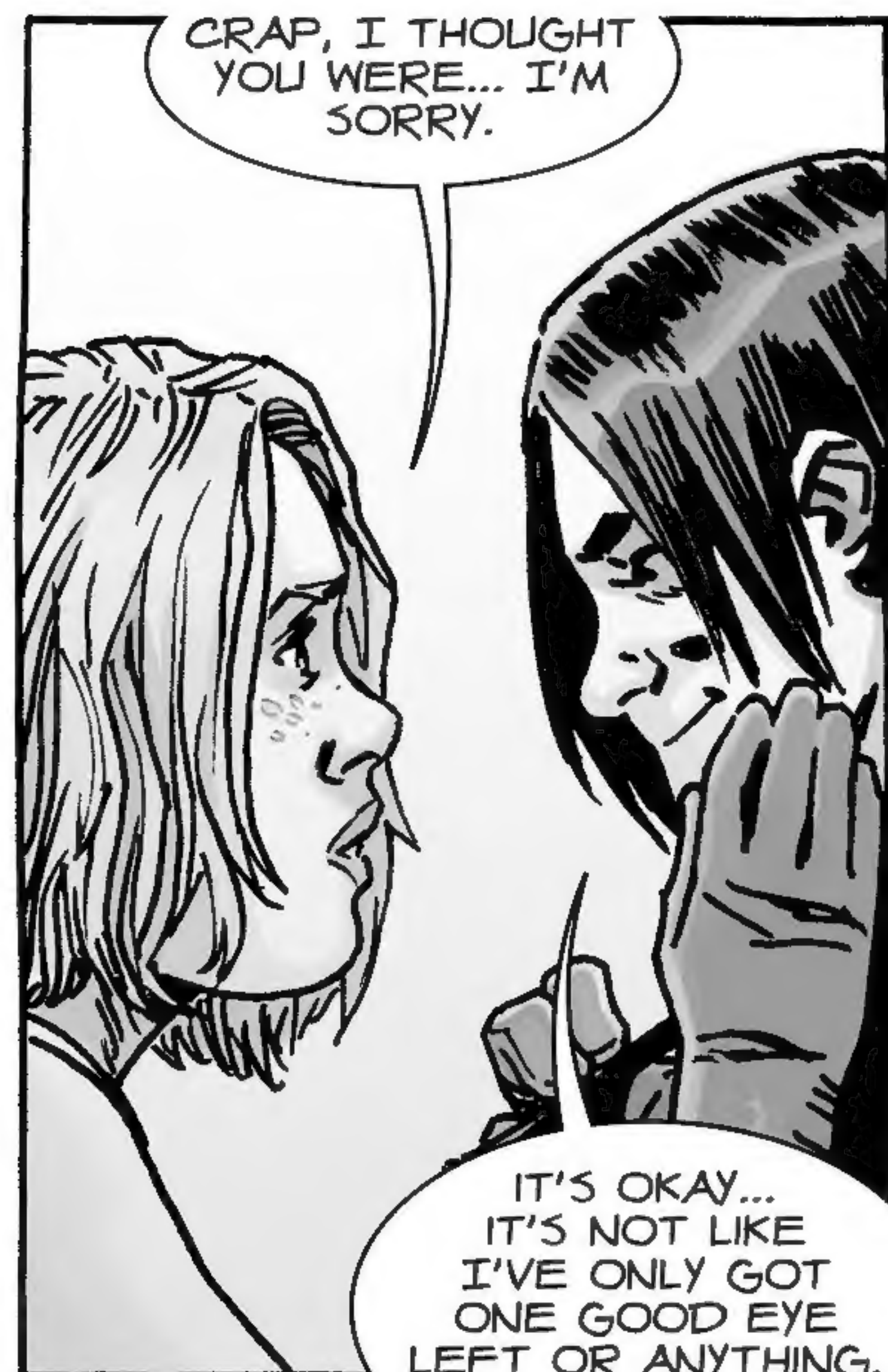
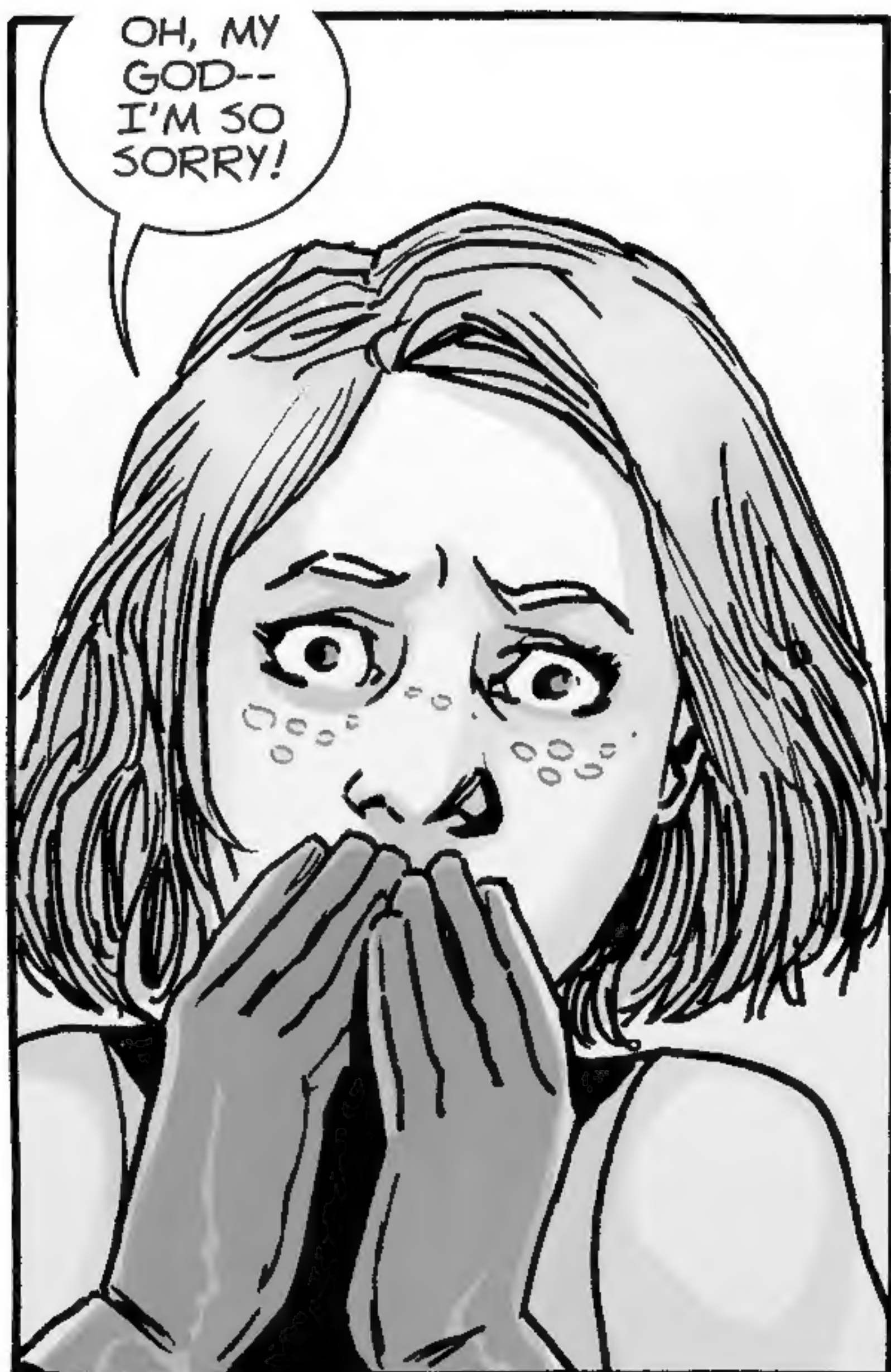
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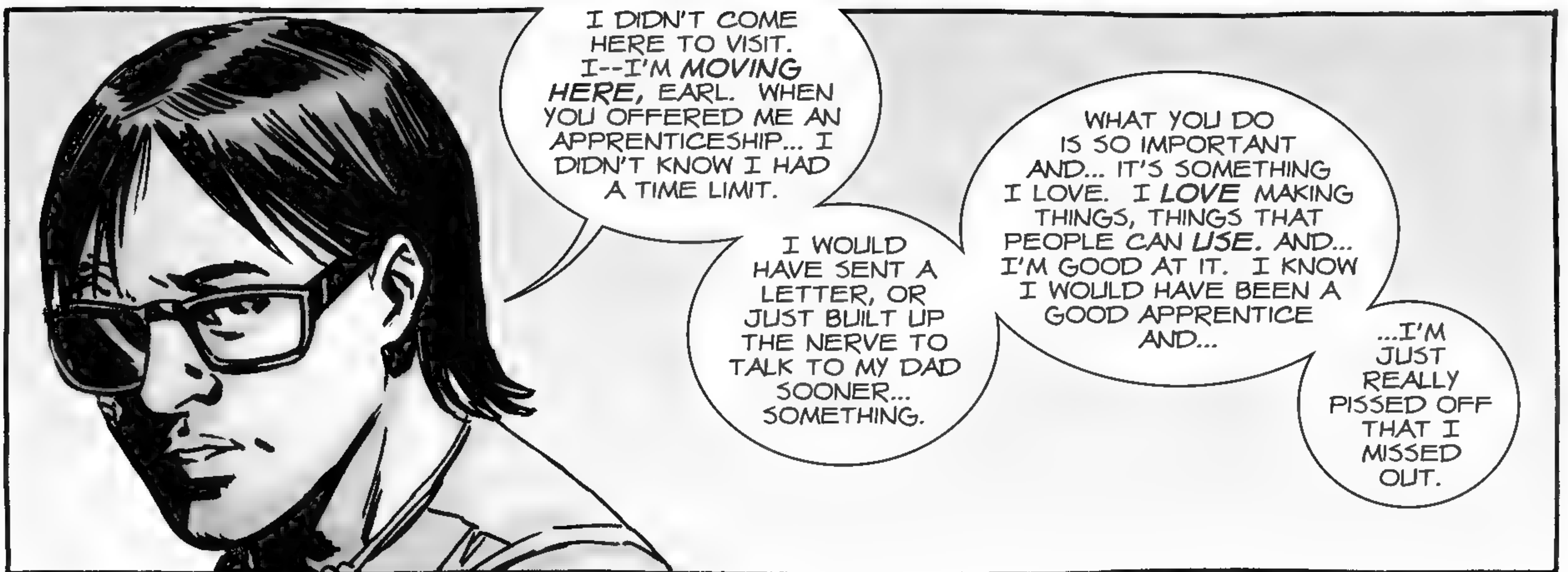
NO, I--



IS EVERYTHING OKAY?



NO. NO, IT'S NOT.



I DIDN'T COME HERE TO VISIT. I--I'M MOVING HERE, EARL. WHEN YOU OFFERED ME AN APPRENTICESHIP... I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD A TIME LIMIT.

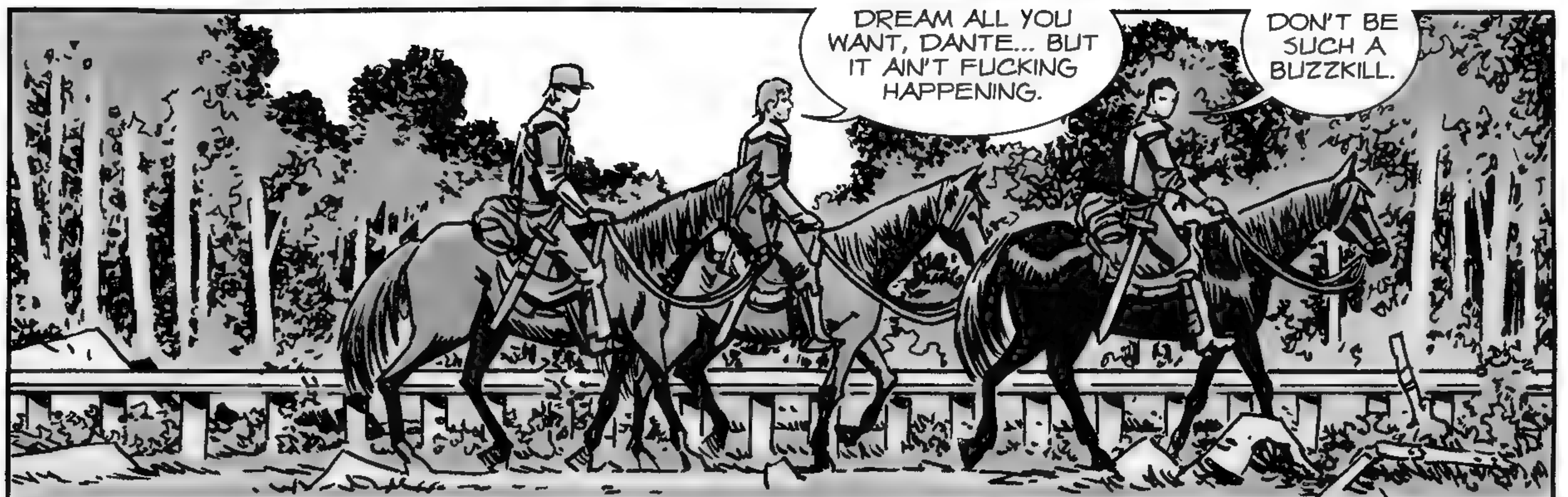
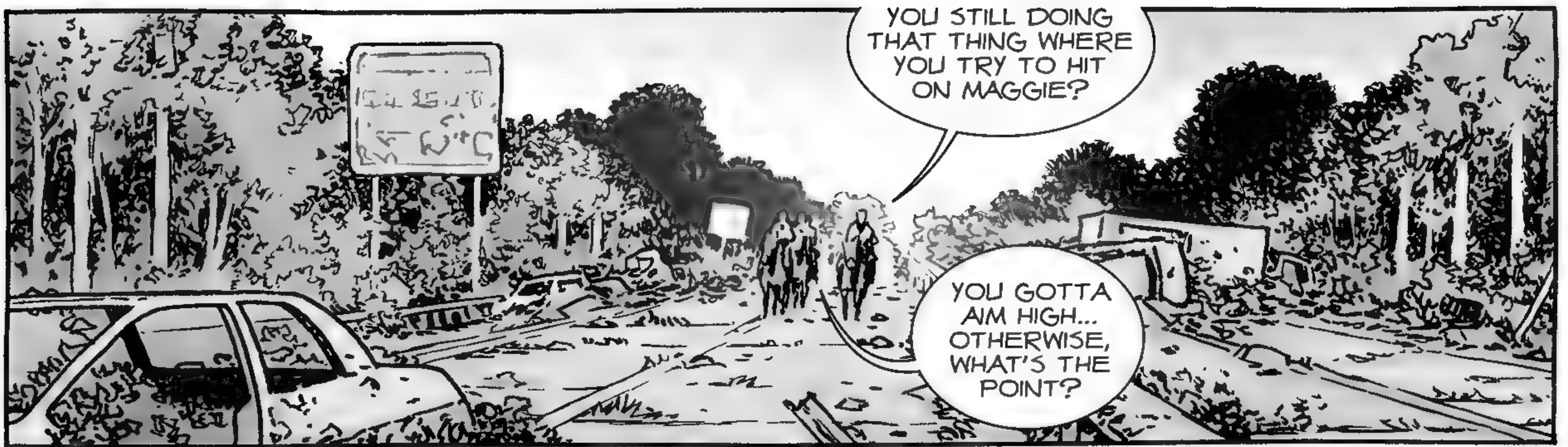
I WOULD HAVE SENT A LETTER, OR JUST BUILT UP THE NERVE TO TALK TO MY DAD SOONER... SOMETHING.

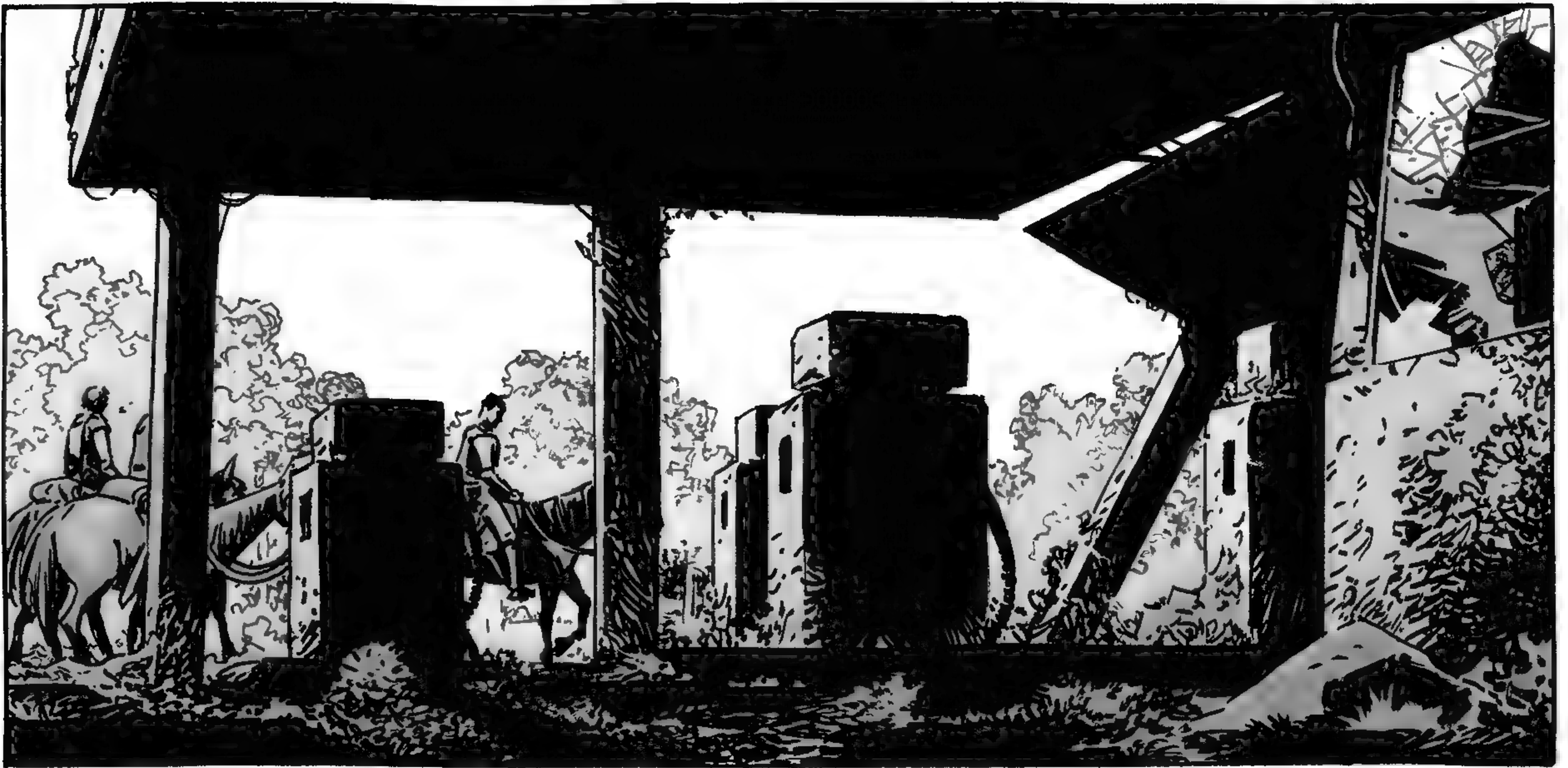
WHAT YOU DO IS SO IMPORTANT AND... IT'S SOMETHING I LOVE. I LOVE MAKING THINGS, THINGS THAT PEOPLE CAN USE. AND... I'M GOOD AT IT. I KNOW I WOULD HAVE BEEN A GOOD APPRENTICE AND...

...I'M JUST REALLY PISSED OFF THAT I MISSED OUT.









OKAY, I'LL BE THE ASSHOLE.

MARCO SAID HIS LEG WAS BROKEN **BAD**, RIGHT? KEN IS FUCKING **GONE** AND THIS IS JUST PUTTING US IN DANGER. AIN'T NO PATROLS OUT HERE. WE COULD RUN INTO **ANYTHING**.



YEAH, I MEAN... WE BEEN RIDING FOR HOURS. WE GONNA MAKE THIS A TWO DAY TRIP? I AIN'T SLEEPING OUT HERE.



JESUS CHRIST, GUYS. IT'S FUCKING KEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE. DON'T BE SO COLD. HE'D BE WEARING THESE SADDLES OUT LOOKING FOR US.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP YET. AND WE MAY BE PAST THE PATROLS, BUT THIS AREA HAS BEEN MAPPED. NOT A LOT OF SURPRISES OUT HERE.



YOU GUYS ARE REALLY PISSING ME OFF.

REMIND ME NOT TO GET LOST AND COUNT ON YOU TWO TO FIND ME.



OKAY, SHIT.

SORRY, MAN.



MARCO SAID HE LEFT KEN IN A BARN. LET'S CHECK THIS ONE UP AHEAD... MIGHT SLEEP THERE FOR THE NIGHT, TOO.

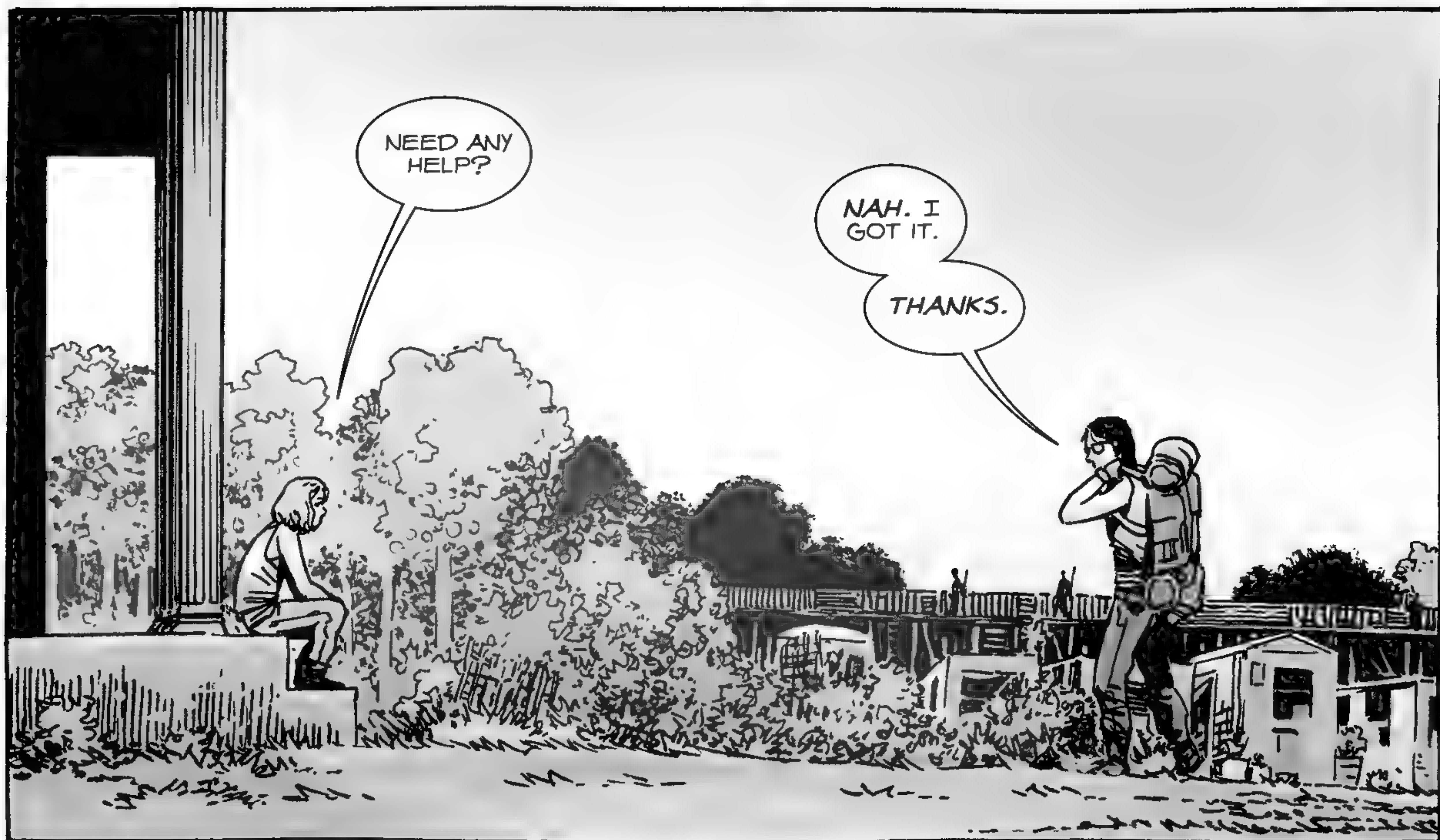
C'MON.







OH,
JESUS.





TRUTH IS, THINGS ARE ALMOST **BETTER** THAN BEFORE THIS ALL STARTED.

PEOPLE **GET ALONG** HERE. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?



THEY **APPRECIATE** WHAT THEY HAVE. THEY DON'T TAKE IT FOR GRANTED. THEY **CHERISH** IT AND THEY'RE THANKFUL FOR EVERY DAY OF PEACE.



WE NEVER KNEW HOW GOOD WE HAD IT.

NEVER KNEW HOW **CLOSE** WE WERE TO LOSING IT.



IF ONLY I'D HAVE KNOWN.

I'D HAVE WATCHED SO MUCH TV.



NO YOU WOULDN'T HAVE.

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE WATCHED ANY.



YOU'RE RIGHT...





...AND YOU KNOW
WHAT, THINGS ARE
GOING SO WELL. THE
FAIR IS COMING UP,
WE'RE NOT HIDING AND
FIGHTING... WE'RE
BUILDING AND
CREATING.

THINGS
ARE
GOOD.

BUT IF I'M
COMPLETELY
HONEST... I
MISS YOU.



AND EVEN
AFTER ALL THAT
HAPPENED...

...I MISS
MICHONNE.





LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

While a lot of you are probably also wondering “Where is Michonne?”, isn’t it great to see Carl happy? Glad things are working out for that young man. As opposed to newcomer Dante, who looks like he’s about to eat a shit sandwich.

Dear Kirkman and friends,

First, the good stuff. All Out War was great, truly great. I love how the world continues to grow and mature. As bleak as this series can be, there are real moments of hope, too. Charlie, man, you are stunning. Your artwork continues to amaze and delight even when you’re working a biweekly schedule.

But now, the bad stuff. I should have seen this coming. The bad guy convinces new people that the good guys are bad guys. That’s a story I’ve seen way, way too many times. Please, guys, please tell me you’re not about to walk headfirst into a hackneyed, cliché plot twist like that one. You guys are too good to just play that one straight. Please tell me that there’s gonna be a twist, hopefully something totally unexpected.

Now, don’t get me wrong. I’m not about to drop a book as spectacular as this one. I’m not even mad, hell, I’m not even disappointed. I will be if this ends up as obvious as it looks, but I trust you guys. After reading the whole back catalog of issues I trust that you guys are gonna surprise me or subvert my expectations on this one. And even if you don’t, well, one eyerolling cliché isn’t gonna make me drop the book. Anyway, thanks for reading and keep those issues coming!

Sincerely,

Jeff

#130 really hit a button, with people expecting the story to bob when we were really weaving (or whatever...). It was the semi-annual “jump to conclusions” letter writing campaign. Thank you, Jeff, for writing one of the more balanced letters. We ain’t mad at cha!

Glad we dodged that bullet. WHEW!

Where the fuck is Lucille MOTHER FUCKERS?

Eloquently yours,
Ryan Szoldatits
Toronto, Canada

I don’t know. Where the fuck IS Lucille?

All in due time... Lucille’s location will be revealed... later.

Kirkman, et. al.,

Just read 128, and I gotta say my skepticism of a post-AOW storyline has been muzzled. I am enjoying the new character arcs and the remaining uncertainty amidst a seeming utopia.

Two things:
(#1) Some people probably lost their shit when Rick snapped out and thumped Border-patrol Benjamin.

But coming from a guy who works in a high-risk, pay-the-

fuck-attention job that safeguards somebody’s life, let me say sticks work better than carrots. Frequently.

In the end, Benjamin will be thankful for the beating handed to him by the R.G. for bringing him to his senses.... Either that, or he’ll let Negan out, and try to exact some kind of retribution (didn’t know Spencer, eh?) and burn everything to the ground.

Also (#2), in 127... That exchange between Rick and Eugene, Rick remarks Eugene is ‘too valuable’ for herding... Is there a caste system developing, or is Rick just stating Eugene is like Montag in Fahrenheit 451 -the last surviving Gospel of Matthew?

You guys are great, and I hope Negan gets a crowbar in the face,

Justin
Lebanon, Pa

There’s no defined caste system just yet. Rick was just remarking that Eugene, who is kind of their expert on figuring things out and reestablishing civilization... shouldn’t be putting himself at risk.

Charlie Adlard is an illustrating master, how many others could use a whole 2 pages (p8-9 issue 129), covering just 6 words of script, and tell me so much about the groups journey since two years has passed. The horse and cart lifestyle, the new look Rick and Carl, the improved defenses, fixed gate and even the windmill in the distance all setting a scene im sure even you genius scriptwriters wouldnt have envisaged when you wrote the words...“whose your girlfriend?”...“shut up dad”

While there’s only six words of dialogue, Robert wrote 175 words to describe the scene. So, envisage it he did. And I’d say you’d learn more about Robert’s writing process if THE CUTTING ROOM FLOOR ever came out... but, you know...

Wow... way to throw me under the bus. But seriously, folks. I’m not just writing dialogue here. My script gets MIGHTY sparse at times and I lean on Charlie a LOT because we know each other’s talents quite well, and I know what I can saddle him with... but I think if I sent him a blank script with just dialogue... he’d kill me. That said... I’m tempted to try.

Charlie I salute you! Please continue to amaze me with your visuals of this world Ive come to love!

And please have Negan escape soon!...just dont be tempted to make his return many arcs later like the delay of the return of Merl in the tv series (good when it finally came but could have made series 2 sooo much better!)...i just cant wait to see what Negans vengeance will look like!!

Big fan from the UK
Tony Mannix
Nottinghamshire

How shocked would readers be if Negan... never escaped?

Well, Kirkman, you’ve finally done it. I’ve been a supporter and a defender of yours for years now. People were pissed about you killing Glen and I defended the decision. People bitched that Negan was just a Governor ripoff and I argued and argued that they were wrong. Even as recently as the

ending of All Out War, I said “it’s fine, I bet he has a good plan.”

And now it looks like you’re just going to tell the same goddamn story with these new survivors that you did when Rick & company first got to Alexandria. I’m hoping against hope that I’m wrong, that Rick or SOMEONE will be able to be like “no, you idiots, we’re not hiding anything, we’re rebuilding” and there won’t be some sneaky goings-on. But if they fucking let Negan out and he convinces them that Rick and LITERALLY A WHOLE SOCIETY is evil, I’m so over it. If this gets printed, I’m sure it won’t be until 2 issues after I’m proven wrong and you and Sean can just be like “HA, you fucking idiot!” But it’s aiming and aiming at “Negan gets out & the new survivors turn against the community.”

You’d better not let me down Kirkman!! I’m watching you.

Justin Smith
Charlotte NC

“HA, you fucking idiot!” ...I couldn’t imagine a better response.

No comment.

Hi all!

My name is Alexandra. I live in Russia in small village Shekshema. Here we have nothing like the comics and it’s sad. I always thought that if the first experience from something positive, you’ll love it forever. After reading The Walking Dead, I realized that this experience more than the positive. I fell in love with your comics! I read it days and nights. And even my mother reads TWD, although she had never been a fan of such genre. So thank you very much for your work, which brings me, and not only to me so many joy.

P.S. I am also delighted with the TV show, it’s my favorite of all that I saw. I can not wait for the new season)

P.P.S. Sorry for bad English

Sasha Solnceva
Shekshema, Russia

The Walking Dead: Russian mother approved! Thanks for the support, Sasha!

Hacks,

I’ve been reading religiously since I picked up the first two trades at Book Expo America in 2005, and I’ve loved every minute of it. First there was a long cycle of waiting 6 months in anticipation for the trades, buying them the day they came out, and reading them before the day was over. I’ve gone digital now, and repeat that process each month with the issues. I’ve loved every minute of the show, I’ve loved the pacing, and I’ve loved seeing a different story than the books. Ten years with no complaints is a pretty good track record.

It’s been more than two years though, and I’m ready to move on. When Glen died, I read that issue 5 times in a row because I couldn’t believe what I was reading. I watched in disbelief as Abraham, my favorite character since Tyreese, was killed without a fight. I was white-knuckled for “All Out War.” It was all amazing. Negan was a great villain, he made the Governor look like a pre-school teacher.

It’s time to move on though. After all the hype that his story was coming to an end, we’re back in his story the very next issue. The characters have gone (undetermined) years without seeing him, but the readers don’t have any break. And he’s back the following issue... and he’s back the following issue... and he’s sure to be back next issue. The book isn’t called “The Walking Negan.” Get to the next story, please!

Paul Juser
Brooklyn, NY

I think it’s pretty clear at this point that the story, for now at least, is very much NOT focused on Negan. He’ll be around, sure... but we are in a sense, moving on.

Look at us, pleasing fans left and right this month! Feels good to do that for a change... maybe Michonne isn’t dead after all.

Hey Kirkman,

I just finished reading issue #127 and all I have to say is that Rick did a great job rebuilding Alexandria. In fact so great,

that guess what it was placed just outside his doorstep:

A fucking pigsty!

Enjoy your stay in Alexandria Rick with your lover/older men aficionado Andrea, your psychopathic teenager son and the hog farm stink! And fucking fucker Negan!

Yannis Takis,
Karpenissi, Greece

Great point, Yannis... But after years of rotting corpses, I’d imagine pig shit wouldn’t smell as bad.

I definitely think that people’s sense of smell in this world would be acclimated to some pretty terrible things by now.

Dear Fuckers,

I was a little fucking bored today so I counted how many fucking times Negan swears (upto and fucking including Issue 129). 534 motherfucking times.

He says “fuck” - or derivatives of - 432 times, with “shit” - making up 50 of the others. Here’s a fucking breakdown, cos numbers are absofuckinglutely cool:

- Fucking 253
- Fuck 107
- Shit 44
- Motherfucking 20
- Dick 17
- Fucked 9
- Fuckers 9
- Bitch 8
- Fucks 8
- Asshole 7
- Fucker 5
- Piss 5
- Motherfuckers 4
- Fuck’s Sake 3
- Motherfucker 3
- Pussy 3
- Absofuckinglutely 2
- Assholes 2
- Cocksucking 2
- Cunt 2
- Motherfuck 2
- Pricks 2
- Shitting 2
- Bastard 1
- Bullshit 1
- Fucked-Up 1
- Fuckedy 1
- Fuckhead 1
- Fuckity 1
- Fuckless 1
- Infuckinghuman 1
- Pissed 1
- Prick 1
- Pussies 1
- Shitheads 1
- Shittier 1
- Shitty 1
- What-The-Fuck-Ever 1

I hope you print this, it would make my fucking day.

Cheers wankers,

Grayson S.
Winchester, UK

Great work, Grayson! You’ve just made all the Walking Dead statheads cream themselves.

Shit... Negan needs to swear more.

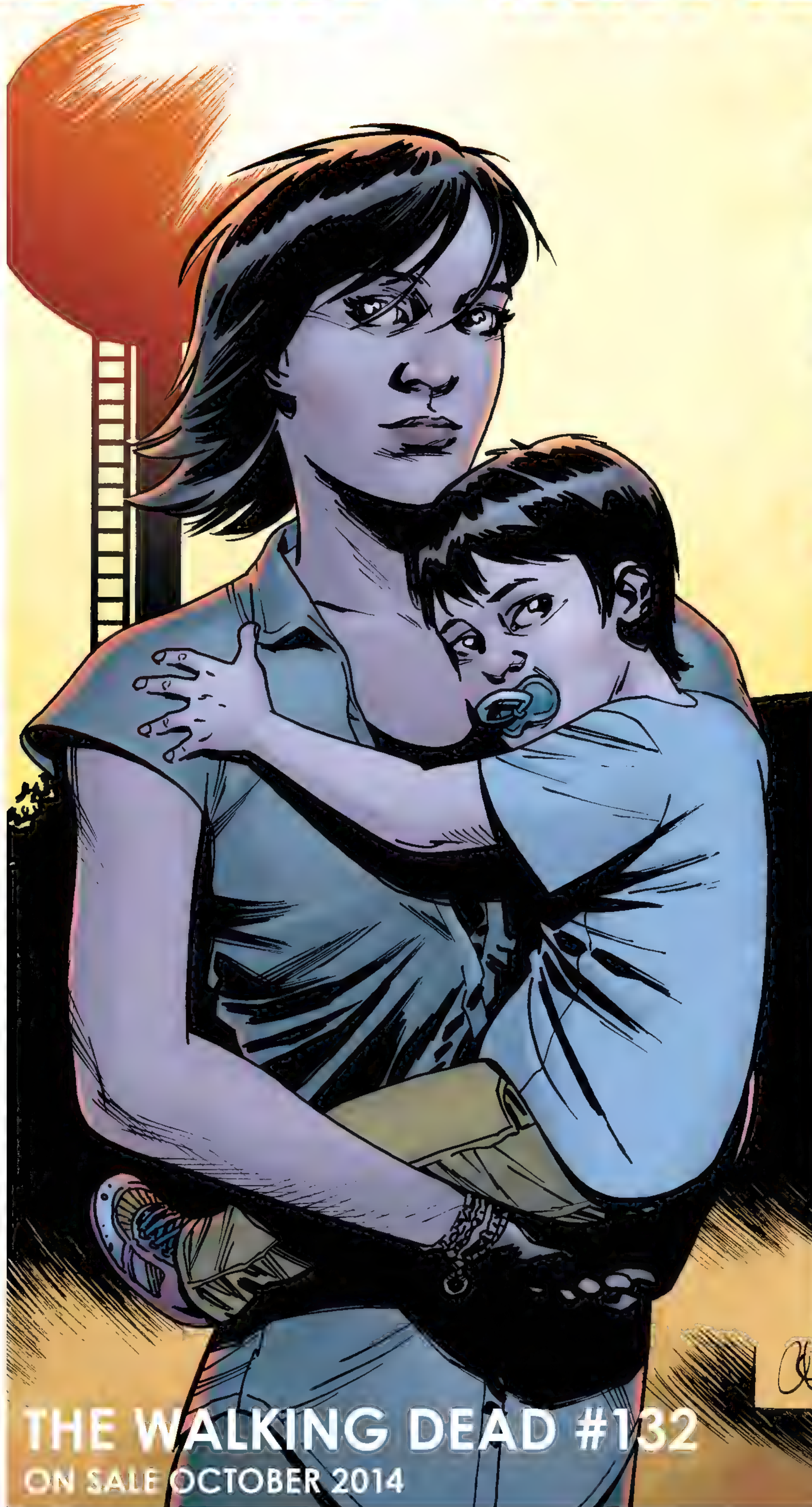
Don’t forget, we got two issues coming next month! And the next one’s so surprising, you’ll be glad the following one isn’t so far behind. We’re also headed to New York Comic Con in October. See you there!

-Sean Mackiewicz

And for the record... I was joking about the book being weekly in 2015. That would be IMPOSSIBLE. Wouldn’t it, guys? Or would it? Sean? Charlie? What do you say?

-Robert Kirkman

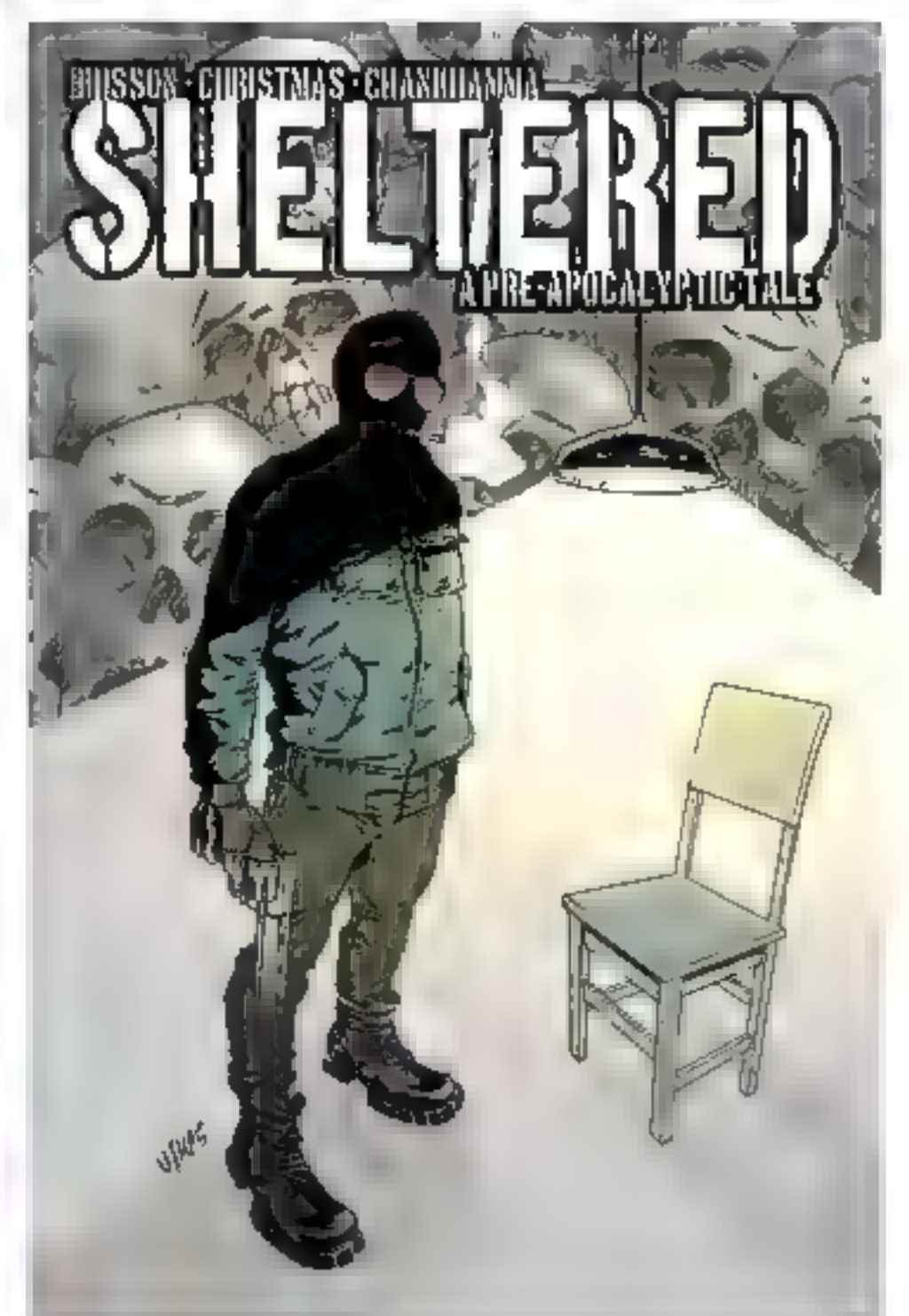
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**INVINCIBLE
#114**
ON SALE NOW



GHOSTED #13
ON SALE NOW



SHELTERED #11
ON SALE NOW

THE WALKING DEAD #132
ON SALE OCTOBER 2014



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NO
WEAPON
OF WAR
WAS
MORE
FEARED
THAN
THE WHITE
DEATH

"...a tour de force of
visceral storytelling."

— DAVE GIBBONS
Wolfshead
The Secret Service

ROBBIE MORRISON

CHARLIE ADLARD

WHITE DEATH

SEPTEMBER

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w y t c h e s

witch (wich) *n.* [ME *wicche* < OE *wice*, fem. of *wieca*, sorcerer, akin to N.Du *wieken*, to use ~~the~~ *weik*, to separate (hence se *aside* for relics as *worship*) > both *weiths*, holy. OB *wig*, id. 1 a new ~~man~~ *man* having supernatural power as by a compact with the devil or evil spirits. 2 a fierce, ugly and ill-tempered old woman. 3 a ~~man~~ *man* or follower of white magic or of Wicca. 4 Uniform. 5 *short for WATER WITCH* (sense 1) - vt. 1 to put a magic spell on; bewitch 2 (arch) to charm; fascinate - vi. DOWSE - *wit h'-like' adj.* - *wits*, *id.* *witch* - *er*, *witch* - *iest*

From the bestselling creative team behind
Batman: The Black Mirror

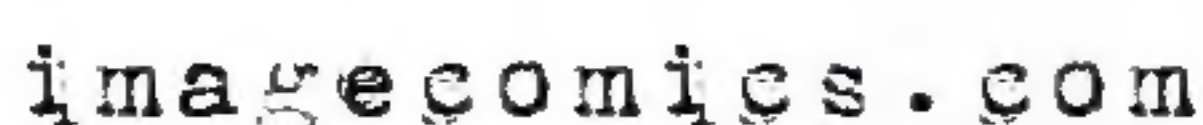
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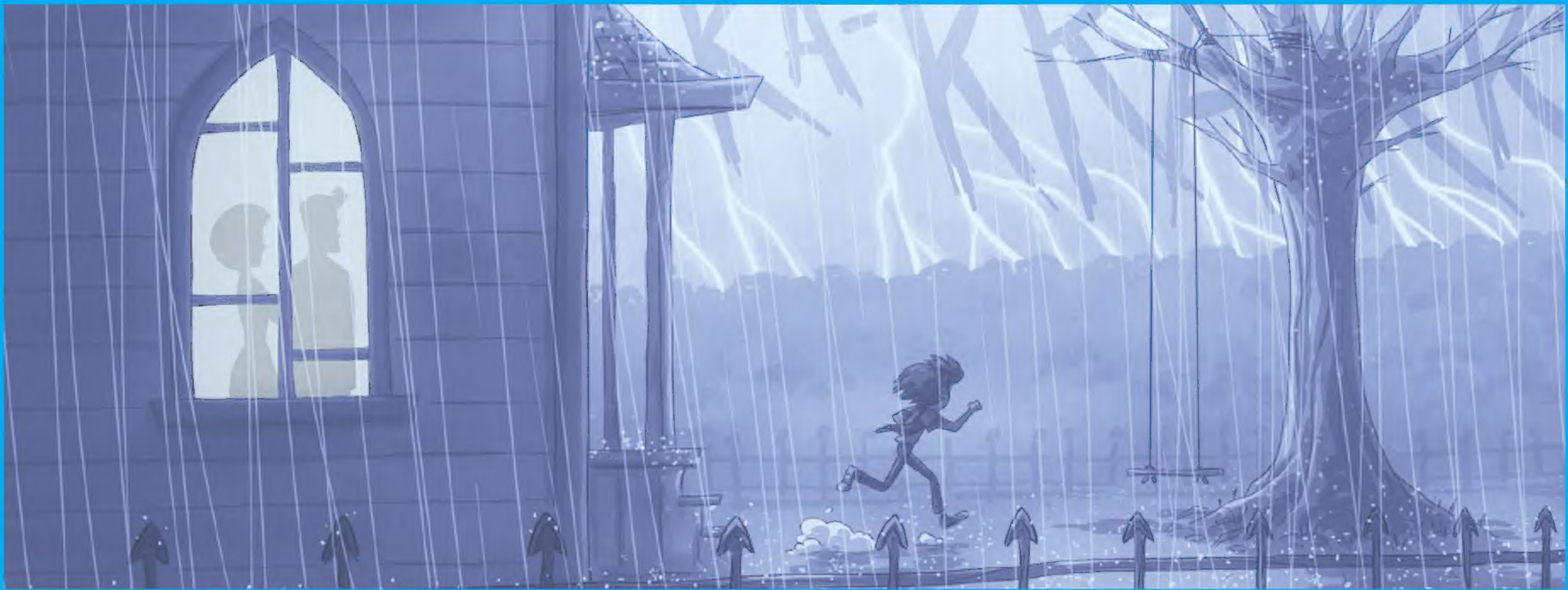
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From the creator of NAILBITER and GHOSTED

BIRTHRIGHT

Joshua Williamson

Andrei Bressan Adriano Lucas

TM



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October 2014



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When the adventure ends, the hero's journey begins!



None